SCRIP TALK

March 2009 Volume # 37 Issue # 153

1818 HARPER RD
BECKLEY WV 25801

PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE PD
SKELTON WV
PERMIT NO. 1

Trace Fork Mining Co.
Storm King, KY
Edkins 2687-A R-10

Spring Scrip Show

April 17-18, 2009 Beckley, WV

Join us at the Beckley Courtyard Inn for the NSCA's two-day extravaganza! There will be a large assortment of scrip displayed for buy, sell, or trade; and wonderful conversations with fellow script collectors to be had. If you have wares to sell, you can rent a table by contacting Jim Lackey at 304/429-1180. Those needing a room should contact the Courtyard at 304/252-9800 and mention the NSCA to receive the special room rate. Call soon to ensure room availability. The hotel is located at Exit 44 of I-77, just off Harper Road. Spread the news and invite a friend!

From the President

Our Spring Show is fast approaching and I urge everyone to reserve their room as soon as possible. It's been a long, hard, winter and all scrip collectors should be looking forward to our first show of the year.

Remember, there will be no meals provided at the Beckley Show, so come prepared to eat at a local restaurant.

The Fall Show at Cumberland Gap, Tennessee is scheduled for October 2nd and 3rd but there are some difficulties I am trying to work out. It may be impossible to resolve these and we may be compelled to move to some other location. I will try to have things resolved by the time we get to Beckley.

Plans for updating our books are progressing but I need everyone's cooperation. If you collect a state only, county only, town only or just collect, we need your input. Please inform our new finds editor, Bill Fugera, if you have any tokens that are not listed or any errors that you know to exist.

This is going to be a monumental undertaking and probably require two or three years to complete but if we never get started we will never finish. So, please help if at all possible.

Happy Collecting,
Jim Lackey, President

COE POCAHONTAS COVEL 677 BILLY CAMPBELL

HOW BAD IS THE "A" SERIES METAL IDENTIFIED IN THE EDKIN CATALOGUE? IS THERE ANOTHER METAL TYPE?

	CATALOGUE	HAVE
A1	N	NP
A5	N	C
A10	B	NP
A25	B	NP
A50	B	NP
A100	NP	NP

NEED ANSWER TO THE ABOVE. IF YOU HAVE ANY "A" PLEASE LOOK VERY CLOSE AND RESPOND TO;

BILLY CAMPBELL
125 CAMBRIDGE TRAIL
MADISON, AL 35758

bwcok@knology.net

In Appreciation of

Crawford H. Blakeman, Sr.

Steve Cawood

In 1978 the NSCA gained a new member who was to become a true "R-10" – Crawford Blakeman of Middlesboro, Kentucky, came up to Hawks Nest for a meeting, joined the Club, and became one of our best members.

I had known Crawford at a distance as a civic leader and businessman in Bell County, and a "reform" Mayor of Middlesboro. He and my father-in-law had served on the City Council together and, as a boy, I had known of his having the finest stamp collection and coin collection (particularly English) in the area. Unlike many of us, though, when Crawford "discovered" coal scrip, he entered our facet of the hobby as a numismatist, an authority on coins of the realm.

I was not at Crawford's first meeting, though I heard about his hauling home a trunkload! Keep in mind that back then, most of the scrip which changed hands at an NSCA swap meet was in fact a "swap" between two persons with scrip. Crawford joined without any "traders", and when his numismatist's eye spotted a pictorial, or an engravers mark, the price of scrip began edging up!

As might be expected, Crawford then threw himself into helping Edkins, Caldwell, Schenkman, Williams, Ratliff, and many others then active in our hobby to catalog scrip. He dedicated thousands of hours of work and an unknown amount of his own funds to a pursuit of excellence in helping to bring us to where we are. Through all of this, Crawford interwove a firm strand of intellectual and historical honesty, and a steel-hard sense of fair play – he became the "go-to" authoritative source for an accurate rarity rating on scrip in general, and particularly that of Southern Appalachia.

In addition, Crawford Blakeman served as President for several terms, as Treasurer for twenty years or so, and as our NSCA Board Member until last Fall. Blakeman assembled what was once undoubtedly the finest collection of Kentucky coal scrip, and though he disposed of his collection a few years ago, he has continued to attend, and to be helpful and entertaining at each of our semi-annual meetings. I was not at Hawks Nest thirty-one years ago with Crawford, but I'll bet he rides up to Beckley with me in April! About 1979, Crawford and I began a friendship through our club that has grown liken unto kinship, and I have benefited greatly from the relationship, as have many of you. When we get to Beckley, let's all give Crawford a big *Welcome*!

Helpful Hints in Researching Coal Company History

Crawford H. Blakeman, Sr.

After several years of avid scrip collecting, it became apparent to me that learning the history behind the scrip was just as pleasurable and perhaps more important than the act of acquiring and the possession of mine scrip. The comments I make hear are meant as somewhat of a guide to those collectors who would like to delve a little deeper into the history of mines and mine scrip. My first bit of advice as far as history is concerned is to limit your field to what you would like to research, probably the same as your collecting interests. After years of "shrinking" the area of interest for myself, I find my hands full with three counties, namely Bell, Knox, and Whitley, Kentucky, along with that portion of Claiborne County, Tennessee, bound by Bell County.

It is my belief that a large number of scrip collectors, new and old, do not understand fully the scope of Gordon Dodrill's 20,000 Coal Company Stores. In no way do I intend to minimize the work of Dodrill, nor the importance of his book; truly it is a work of importance and a valuable tool. One must note, however, that Dodrill did not primarily intend to list coal mines as such; as the title of the work states, "Company Stores," not mines. A great number of mines, many issuing scrip, were not listed simply because there was no record in the Keystone Directories of their having a company store. As far as I have been able to discern, Dodrill's only source of information was from the Keystone Directories, and these not before 1903 as stated on the cover of his book.

As an example of why this is not the complete picture, most of the mining area I have studied began years before 1903, causing the omission of many scrip issuing mines. Also, if Keystone made an error it follows that Dodrill made an error, and this must be taken into account. In Kentucky, and probably in most coal producing states, the Department of Mines and Minerals made an annual report to the Governor; probably the most factual source of information to be had. One must go directly to the "horse's mouth," the Department of Mines and Minerals, to see the microfilm records.

Rarely one will see a piece of scrip that is not mentioned in Dodrill, Edkins, or the state records, in which case other records sometimes help. Telephone directories, R. G. Dun Directories, geological surveys, and even newspapers can be valuable sources of information.
Another thing we have to thank Gordon Dodrill for is probably not known to most scrip collectors. Gordon worked from index cards, keeping things such as names of officer and relative dates, such as the company being succeeded or, itself, succeeding another company.

These cards were given to the NSCA and are in the possession of the NSCA, except for those for West Virginia. These cards have been of great benefit to me, perhaps more than the Dodrill book, itself. To give you an idea of the scope of some of the research, I have compiled a record of about 600 mining companies in Bell County, beginning in 1800's and running until about 1950. Somewhere near 150 of these issued scrip.

Just because you don't find it in Dodrill or Edkins, don't give up!

EDITOR'S NOTE: Crawford Blakeman has been contributing to the pages of Scrip Talk for 30 years, including an article printed as recently as our last issue. This issue's classic Crawford column first appeared in 1998, and still has value today.

NeW FiNDS

BILL FUGERA
28732 CHARREADAS
LAGUNA NIGUEL, CA
92677
FUGEWILJ@COX.NET

BLANCHE, KY, 298, (BELL)
Big Jim Coal Co. /10/Blanche, Ky
C10b B 23 Rd Co Orco 1940
B10 B 23 Rd Co Orco No Date
G100 B 32 Rd Co Orco 1939

BLANCHE, KY 298 (BELL)
New Straight Creek Supply /Co.
F25 B 29 Rd Sd Miners Order To The Store/For/Merchandise/25

BLUE DIAMOND, KY, 309 (PERRY)
Blue Diamond Coal Co./1.oo/Blue Diamond, Ky.
P100 B 31 Rd Co Orco Pat. Pend.

CAIRNES, KY, 431 (BELL)
Cairnes Coal Mining Co./Incorporated/Cairnes, Ky
A5b N Rd Sd Orco Reg. U.S. Pat. Off.

CARDINAL, KY, 483 (BELL)
Ky. Cardinal/(bird) Coal Corp./Cardinal/Ky
C5 A 20 Rd Sd Good For/5/In Merchandise

CARY, KY, 499 (BELL)
Federal Coal Co.
F50 A 33 Rd Sd Good For/In Trade/50 cents

CRUMMIES, KY, 705 (HARLAN)
Crummies Creek Coal Co./50/Crummies, Ky
B50c B 27 Rd Sd Orco Reg. U.S. Pat. Off.

DAVISBURG, KY, 745 (BELL)
Caney Creek/Coal &/ Coke Co./Davisburg, Ky
B25b B 32 Sc Sd Good For/25/In Merchandise

ELYS, KY, 923 (KNOX)
Harlan Knox Coal Co./10/Elys, Ky.
A10b B 21 Rd Co Orco Pat. Pend.
A100b B 32 Rd Co Orco Pat. Pend.

ELYS, KY, 923 (KNOX)
Harlan-Producers Coal Co./10/Elys, Ky.
C10 B 21 Rd Co Orco Reg. U.S. Pat. Off.

EVARTS, KY, 975 (Harlan)
Harlan Co-Operative Coal Co./Incorporated/5
C5 Np 19 Rd Co ICS

EVARTS, KY, 975 (HARLAN)
Sugar Camp Mining Co./50
G50b Np 25 Rd Sd

FONDE, KY 1041 (BELL)
Clear Fork/Coal Co./Inc./Fonde, Ky.
I5 B 20 Rd Sd Good For/5c/In Merchandise

FORK RIDGE, KY 1045 ? (?)
Fork Ridge Coal & Coke Company/25/Fork Ridge, Ky.
A25 B 24 Rd Co Orco Reg. U.S. Pat. Off.

FOUR MILE, KY, 1055 (BELL)
J. B. Straight/Creek/Coal/Mining/Co./Four Mile, Ky.
G5 A 20 Sc Sd Good For/5/ In/ Merchandise
G10 A 23 Sc Sd Good For/10/In/Merchandise

GRAY, KY, 1163 (KNOX)
West Jellico/Coal/Mine
E25 B 30 Rd Sd Good For/25/In Mdse./At B. F. Grays
E50b B 25 Oct Sd Good For/50/In Mdse./At B. F. Grays
E100 B 29 Oct Sd Good For/100/In Mdse./At B. F. Grays

GRAYS, KY, 1167 (KNOX)
Ostend Coal Co./Grays, Ky
F10b N 22 Oc Sd Good For/10/ In Trade

HARLAN, KY, 1231 (Harlan)
S. C. Saylor
B5 B 20 Rd Sd Good For/5/In/Merchandise
B25 B 24 Rd Sd Good For/25/In/Merchandise

HARLAN, KY, 1231 (HARLAN)
Shawnee Gas Coal Co./Harlan, Ky.
L5 B 20 Sc Sd Good For/5/In Merchandise

HIGNITE, KY, (1324) (BELL)
Hignite Coal M. Co./Hignite,/Ky./Wright,& Son
B25 A ? Rd Sd Good For/25/In Merchandise Only

KETTLE ISLAND, KY, 1503, (BELL)
Pioneer Coal Co./(Pioneer) /5/Kettle Island, Ky.
1D5b B 20 Rd Sd Orco Reg. U.S. Pat. Off.
E1d N 18 Rd Sd Orco Patented

BLUE DIAMOND, KY, 309, (PERRY)
Blue Diamond Coal Co./!.00/Blue Diamond, Ky.
P100 B 31 Rd Co Orco Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.

CHENOA, KY, 537 (BELL)
Clear Creek Coal Co., Inc./Chenoa,/Ky.
B50 B 29 Oc Sd Good For/50/In Merchandise

FONDE, KY, 1041 (BELL)
Clear Fork Coal Co./Inc./5/Fonde, Ky.
C5b B 20 Rd Sd Orco Patented

GATLIFF, KY, 1103 (WHITLEY)
C. B. Coal Company/C/Gatliff,/Ky.
B100 B 32 Rd Sd Good For/1.00/In/Merchandise

KILDAV, KY, 1511, (HARLAN)
King Harlan Company/5/KH/Kildav, Ky.
B5d B 19 Rd Co Orco Pat. Pend.

Trivia

The earliest use of coal in the Americas was by the Aztecs. They used coal for heat and ornaments.

The use of wooden posts to support a mine roof was an innovation first introduced about 1800.

Richard Sutcliffe invented the first conveyor belt for use in coal mines in the early 1900s.

In 1984 Australia surpassed the US as the world's largest coal exporter.

Federal legislation passed in the 1930s granted workers the right to organize unions.

Hoard Alert !!!!

Recently the following FORDSON 50 cents scrip appeared on EBAY for 4 days and was removed by the seller. No additional details.

47 tokens, FORDSON, POND CREEK STORES, McVeigh, Ky., Unlisted
11 tokens, FORDSON BANNER FORK STORES, Banner Fork, Ky., R-10
47 tokens, FORDSON TWIN BRANCH STORES, Twin Branch, WVA., R-9
1 token, FORDSON NUTTALLBURG STORES, Nuttallburg, WVA., R-9

NSCA Free Ads for Members

Free Ads are available to N.S.C.A. members at no charge. The only requirements being that they are limited to 4 lines, one ad per issue. You may send up to four different ads in one mailing. Deadline for Free Ads is three weeks after the postmark of the current issue of SCRIP TALK. All ads received after the deadline will be held for the following issue. No ad will rerun automatically, each issue will require a separate request. Paid ads should be sent to SCRIP TALK Editor and NOT the Free Ad Editor. SEND ALL FREE ADS TO: Steve Ratliff, N.S.C.A. Free Ad Editor, 1717 Saint Marys Bay Drive, Milton, Florida 32583-7343. More and more scriptors are using the convenience of email to submit their ads; send to Steve@Ratliff.com {Note: + at the end of your ad indicates you need to renew it.)

WANTED: HUTCHINSON COAL CO. #1695 FROM LUMBERPORT, WV. Does not say "Lumberport" on token, but has half moon cut-out. Richard Harner, 400 North Willey St., Apt. 908, Morgantown, WV 26505 +

ONE CASINO CHIP OR TWO SCATTER TAGS for your one coal token, many trades. Gene Miller, 3306 Startan CT, Louisville, KY 40220 +

WANTED: GREENBRIER COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA TRADE TOKENS: (Ronceverte, Lewisburg, Rainelle, etc.), and other West Virginia trade tokens, Lumber tokens and Encased Cents. Donald Clifford, P.O. Box 65, St. Albans, WV 25177-0065 email CLFF635@aol.com

TOP DOLLARS PAID FOR CARBIDE CAP LAMPS, oil wick/lard lamps, blasting cap tins, scatter tags, carbide lamp parts and other small mining artifacts that I may need in my collection. I will pay more than anyone for items needed for my collection. Contact Larry Click, 1021 N. Jefferson St., Arlington, VA 22205-2454, 703-241-3748 or email LarryClick@msn.com +

FLORIDA TOKENS WANTED – FLORIDA TOKENS OF ALL TYPES WANTED. Send 59¢ stamp for free sample of Florida Token Society's newsletter, TOKENEWS and request free Florida token. Check out the Florida Token Society web site: http://www.steve.ratliff.com/fts/- you can join and pay dues on-line! Steve Ratliff, 1717 Saint Marys Bay Drive, Milton, FL 32583-7343 Steve@Ratliff.com

A REMINDER, "+" AFTER YOUR AD MEANS IT IS TIME TO RENEW

Join the NSCA!

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

__ New __Renew $20 ~ 1 year $85 ~ 5 years $300 ~ Lifetime

Memberships expire on the date shown on the mailing label.
Please review and renew as needed.

SCRIP TALK 1818 HARPER RD BECKLEY WV 25801 304/253-7242

Thanks to the generosity of NSCA member Charles Miller, any *new* member signing up for the club will receive a FREE set of random WV scrip. Use this great gift as an incentive to invite new members to join!